

**Introduced by Senator Hancock**

February 14, 2011

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An act to add Section 60605.85 to the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 300, as introduced, Hancock. Academic Content Standards Commission for Science and History-Social Science.

Existing law, operative until July 1, 2011, and to be repealed on January 1, 2014, requires the State Board of Education to adopt statewide academic content standards and performance standards, based on the recommendation of the Commission for the Establishment of Academic Content and Performance Standards and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, respectively. Existing law authorizes the state board to modify any proposed content standard or performance standard prior to its adoption.

This bill would establish the Academic Content Standards Commission for Science and History-Social Science consisting of 21 appointed members, as specified. The bill would require the commission to develop academic content standards in science and history-social science, which shall be internationally benchmarked and build toward college and career readiness by the time of high school graduation. The bill would require the commission to present its recommended academic content standards to the state board on or before January 1, 2013, and would require the state board to either adopt or reject the those standards on or before June 30, 2013. The bill would also require the Superintendent and the state board to present specified information to the Governor and appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2     following:  
3     (a) It is widely acknowledged that California has the eighth  
4     largest economy in the world.  
5     (b) California must develop scientifically and technologically  
6     literate citizens in order to maintain our edge in the world economy.  
7     (c) The state's current science content standards do not include  
8     any mention of biotechnologies or nanotechnologies, and they do  
9     not require pupils to learn about environmental issues or the fact  
10    that Pluto is no longer considered a planet.  
11    (d) The state's science and history-social science content  
12    standards were developed in 1998 and are now 13 years old.  
13    (e) There is nothing in current law that requires science and  
14    history-social science content standards to be reviewed and  
15    updated.  
16    (f) Ever changing historical trends, economic conditions, cultural  
17    exchanges, and demographics have created a greater need than  
18    ever before for understanding the foundational ideas and  
19    philosophy of our country and the world.  
20    (g) The goals of educating pupils in history-social science fall  
21    into the following three broad categories:  
22    (1) Knowledge and cultural understanding, which includes  
23    incorporating learning from history, the other humanities,  
24    geography, and the social sciences.  
25    (2) Demographic understanding and civic values, which includes  
26    incorporating an understanding of our national identity,  
27    constitutional heritage, civic values, and rights and responsibilities.  
28    (3) Skills attainment and social participation, which includes  
29    incorporating basic study skills, critical thinking skills, and  
30    participating skills that are essential for effective citizenship.  
31    (h) It is the intent of the Legislature to establish a schedule and  
32    process for the review and revision, as necessary, of the state's  
33    science and history-social science content standards.  
34    SEC. 2. Section 60605.85 is added to the Education Code, to  
35    read:

1 60605.85. (a) There is hereby established the Academic  
2 Content Standards Commission for Science and History-Social  
3 Science. The commission shall consist of 21 members, appointed  
4 as follows:

5 (1) Eleven members appointed by the Governor.

6 (2) Five members appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

7 (3) Five members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

8 (b) Members of the commission shall serve at the pleasure of  
9 the appointing authority.

10 (c) Not less than half of the members appointed by each of the  
11 appointing authorities pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be current  
12 public school elementary or secondary classroom teachers of  
13 science or history-social science.

14 (d) The commission shall develop academic content standards  
15 in science and history-social science. The standards shall be  
16 internationally benchmarked and build toward college and career  
17 readiness by the time of high school graduation.

18 (e) Pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9  
19 commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of  
20 Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code), all meetings and  
21 hearings of the commission shall be open and available to the  
22 public.

23 (f) The commission shall present its recommended academic  
24 content standards to the state board on or before January 1, 2013.

25 (g) On or before June 30, 2013, the state board shall do either  
26 of the following:

27 (1) Adopt the academic content standards as proposed by the  
28 commission.

29 (2) Reject the academic content standards as proposed by the  
30 commission. If the state board rejects the standards it shall provide  
31 a specific written explanation to the Superintendent, the Governor,  
32 and the Legislature of the reasons why the proposed standards  
33 were rejected.

34 (h) The Superintendent and state board shall present to the  
35 Governor and to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of  
36 the Legislature a schedule and implementation plan for integrating  
37 the academic content standards adopted pursuant to this section  
38 into the state educational system.

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